(2 Seniors & 1 Junior) at the recently concluded Zaghreb World Shooting Championship.

3. Billiards and Snookers — our players have won the World Championships in the last two years.

(c) Sports is a State subject and its promotion at the State level is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. However, the Government of India, through its own Schemes and the Schemes of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Government for improving sports performance at the Junior, Sub-Junior and Senior Levels.

The preparation and training of sportspersons for major international events, including the Commonwealth Games, is an on-going process which takes into account inputs provided by National Sports Federations. A systematic approach is adopted to the selection and training of athletes and teams for participation in major international events by drawing up and implementing four-year roll-on Plans within the frame work of Long Term Development Programmes (LTDP) under which exceptionally talented sportspersons, selected on the basis of their performance, are put through scientifically designed continuous training programmes.

(d) and (e) The Sports-related budget allocation of this Ministry with reference to the schemes of the Sports Authority of India, Talent Search and Training and Assistance to National Sports Federations under which international training facilities, diet, scientific support, high standard coaching by foreign and Indian coaches, etc. are covered, has increased from Rs. 174.81 crore during 2005-06 (RE) to Rs. 193.06 crore during the year 2006-07 (BE).

National Youth Policy

1791. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review "India's National Youth Policy" formulated in 2003;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken so far to ensure all round development of youth in the country so as to fulfill their legitimate aspirations particularly in the age group of 13 to 19 years; and

(c) whether Government have accorded any priority to rural and

tribal youth, female adolescents, youth with disabilities and victims of trafficking, orphans etc., please give details?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has recognized youth belonging to the age group of 13-19, which is a major part of the adolescent age group, as a separate constituency. Further, the Ministry is implementing a 100% central sector scheme of financial assistance for the Development and Empowerment of Adolescents.

(c) Yes, Sir. Apart from various schemes of the Ministries of Women & Child Development, Health and Family Welfare and Social Justice and Empowerment for out of school girls and female adolescents, destitute women (including victims of trafficking), adolescent health, persons with disabilities (including youth) etc., due representation is accorded in the youth related programmes of this Ministry to tribals, out of school youth, under privileged sections of society, including SCs and STs, and women. The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, an autonomous organization of the Ministry, works for the empowerment, welfare and development of rural youth through its large network of Nehru Yuva Kendras in the country.

Encouragement for games like football and volleyball

1792. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to encourage and find talent for games like football and volleyball;

(b) if so, the steps that are being taken to extend assistance directly to educational institutions to foster talent;

(c) the steps proposed by Government to find ways to encourage talent;

(d) whether Government have plans to extend financial assistance for this proposal to encourage popular and low-cost games like football and volleyball; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The development of sports, including the scouting